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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

APR 17 2007

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

TC/A.U. 1734

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a waist band on an absorbent article comprising:
 - a) forming a stretchable first web having a distal end;
 - b) forming a stretchable second web having a distal end, said second web being spaced apart from said first web;
 - c) attaching an elastic band to one of said first and second webs, said elastic band having an outer end, and said elastic band being cantilevered outward from said distal end of said web to which it is attached;
 - d) securing an absorbent assembly to said first and second webs, said absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween;
 - e) folding said web without said elastic band over said web with said elastic band so that said distal end of said web without said elastic band is aligned approximately even with said outer end of said elastic band;
 - f) bonding said first web, said second web and said elastic band together by a pair of seams to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings;
 - g) cutting said first web, said second web and said elastic band at said pair of side seams to form an absorbent article, said absorbent article having a front panel with first and second side edges and having a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges, a back panel with first and second side edges and having a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges, and said elastic band having first and second side edges and having a retracted length that is less than said retracted length of said panel to which it is secured.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second webs is stretched to stop before said elastic band is attached thereto.

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3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said elastic band is stretched while being attached to said web.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said elastic band is stretched to a greater extent than said web to which it is attached.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said elastic band is stretched to a stop position and then partially relaxed prior to attachment to one of said webs.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said elastic band is secured to one of said webs before said absorbent assembly is secured to both said first and second webs.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said elastic band is attached to one of said webs after said absorbent assembly is secured to both said first and second webs.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said elastic band is attached to one of said webs at the same time said absorbent assembly is secured to both said first and second webs.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second webs is stretched from between about 10% to about 500% prior to having said absorbent assembly attached to them.
10. (Currently amended) A method of forming a waist band on an absorbent article comprising;
 - a) forming a stretchable first web having a distal end;
 - b) forming a stretchable second web having a distal end, said ~~second~~ second web being spaced apart from said first web;

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c) attaching an elastic band to said first web after said first web has been stretched from between about 10% to about 500%, said elastic band having an outer end; and said elastic band being cantilevered outward from said distal end of said first web;

d) securing an absorbent assembly to said first and second webs, said absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being positioned between said distal ends of said first and second webs;

e) folding said second web over said first web so that said distal end of said second web is aligned approximately even with said outer end of said elastic band;

f) bonding said first web, said second web and said elastic band together by a pair of seams to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings; and

g) cutting said first web, said second web and said elastic band at said pair of side seams to form an absorbent article, said absorbent article having a front panel with first and second side edges and having a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges, a back panel with first and second side edges and having a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges, and said elastic band having first and second side edges and having a retracted length that is less than said retracted length of said front panel to which it is secured.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said elastic band extends outward beyond said distal edge of said front panel by a distance of from between about 1 millimeter to about 75 millimeters.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said elastic band extends outward beyond said distal edge of said front panel by a distance of at least about 10 millimeters.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said front panel and said elastic band has a force of retraction, and said force of retraction in said elastic band is greater than said force of retraction in said front panel.

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14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein each of said first and second webs is stretched from between about 50% to about 300% prior to having said absorbent assembly attached to them.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein each of said first and second webs is stretched from between about 75% to about 270% prior to having said absorbent assembly attached to them.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a waist band on an absorbent article comprising:

- a) forming a stretchable first web having a distal end;
- b) forming a stretchable second web having a distal end and an outside surface, said second web being spaced apart from said first web;
- c) attaching an elastic band to said outside surface of said second web after said second web has been stretched from between about 50% to about 300%, said elastic band having an outer end, and said elastic band being cantilevered outward from said distal end of said second web;
- d) securing an absorbent assembly to said first and second webs, said absorbent assembly including a liquid pervious bodyside liner, a liquid-impervious outer cover, and an absorbent positioned therebetween, said absorbent assembly being positioned between said distal ends of said first and second webs;
- e) folding said second web over said first web so that said outer end of said elastic band is aligned approximately even with said distal end of said first web;
- f) bonding said first web, said second web and said elastic band together by a pair of seams to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings; and
- g) cutting said first web, said second web and said elastic band at said pair of side seams to form an absorbent article, said absorbent article having a front panel with first and second side edges and having a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges, a back panel with first and second side edges and having a retracted length measured between said first and second side edges, and said elastic band having first and second side edges and having a retracted length that is less than said retracted length of said back panel to which it is secured.

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17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said elastic band extends outward beyond said distal edge of said back panel by a distance of from between about 1 millimeter to about 75 millimeters.
18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said elastic band has a retracted length that is at least 2% less than the retracted length of said back panel.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said absorbent assembly is secured to both said first and second webs before said elastic band is secured to said second web.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said second web is stretched from between about 50% to about 300% prior to having said elastic band attached thereto.